# CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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## LENNOX, CA TO GAZA

# IMMIGRANT TENANTS SHOW SOLIDARITY ACROSS BORDERS

*From left to right: workers standing in front of Inglewood, CA kkkourts and workers fight for rent control. Fight for communism a world without racist kkkourts where workers will be in control of all land and quality housing is guarenteed.*

**LENNOX, CA, March 9**—Tenants here, organized by the Lennox/Inglewood Tenants' Union (LITU), are on the move! Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members active in LITU have recently pushed the organization to make its focus on bringing more rank-and-file tenants into action and leadership. At one apartment complex in Lennox, several immigrant women tenants are showing solidarity with their fellow working-class tenants who are under attack, and giving leadership to the class struggle against evictions and lousy living conditions.

PLP fights for a world without borders and nation-states. Capitalism pushes nationalist ideas to mobilize workers to be loyal to, and fight on the side of, whichever group of bosses runs the nation-state workers happen to live in. Unlike capitalist ideas like nationalism, communist ideas promote working-class solidarity and internationalism.

When workers are convinced that "an attack on one worker is an attack on all workers" class-loyalty emerges. When class consciousness extends to masses of workers all over the world, regardless of where they happen to live, the bosses' days will be numbered!

### Tenants fight back together against landlord's abuses

Nic Murillo, the owner of the apartment complex, is notorious for his in-your-face refusal to spend any money on basic maintenance for the mainly immigrant tenants. When this sleazy slumlord brought court eviction actions against two of the tenant families, LITU sprang into action. LITU organizers canvassed the complex calling for a tenants' meeting. There, a discussion took place about why "an attack on one is an attack on all" and why all tenants needed to show solidarity and support by going to court with the tenants facing eviction.

As a result, several tenants, together with LITU and other supporters, joined the two tenants. LITU led a rally outside the court, with photos on signs exposing the rotten conditions in tenants' apartments and calling for unity of all working-class tenants to fight back. The photos pictured bed bug bites on the young daughter of one tenant, and damage to her bedroom floor caused by a leaky roof. That tenant was forced to spend thousands of dollars of her own money to repair the floor when profit-hungry Murillo refused to do so.

Tenants sat together as a group inside the courtroom and rose together when their fellow tenant's case was called by the court. The lawyer for one of the tenants took a strong stand, telling the judge that she was ready to proceed with a trial that she said would

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## JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION


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SCAN ME

# OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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### WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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**Editorial**

# Haiti:

# Racist disregard & disarray demands revolution

The latest eruption of anti-worker violence in Haiti is yet another reminder of the utter failure and decline of U.S. imperialism. Amid divisions among Haiti's local bosses, and with the U.S. rulers preoccupied by a war in Ukraine and the Israeli genocide in Gaza, armed gangs are fighting viciously for their piece of the capitalist pie. As families flee for their lives, the gangs are waging pitched battles with the national police and now control most of the capital, Port-au-Prince. State institutions are broken. Water and sewage systems have collapsed. Nearly half Haiti's 11.7 million are suffering from hunger. More than 360,000 workers and children are internal refugees (msn.com, 3/21).

This deadly chaos is more proof that the international working class has no stake in the profit system. The working class—youth, workers, and comrades of Progressive Labor Party—need international solidarity from our class sisters and brothers now! Only communist revolution can liberate workers in Haiti and worldwide from the profit-driven violence of the capitalist bosses. Only communism can stand to meet workers' basic needs and give our children a healthy future.

### Gangsters big and small

The gangs in Haiti are not merely workers gone rogue. Many are trained ex-operatives or ex-cops seeking to dominate the country for whatever share of the pie they can grab. The state of anarchy in Haiti forced the U.S. imperialists to oust the widely-hated Ariel Henry, the acting president and prime minister whom they'd backed since 2021, when Haiti's last elected president, Jovenel Moise, was assassinated. Henry's tenure was viewed as illegitimate by Haiti's traditional elite, which also saw Moise's election as the result of manipulation and outright fraud by the administration of the U.S. President Barack Obama.

At the time of Henry's ouster, he was returning from Kenya, where he'd signed an agreement on a "security" deal with the U.S., France, and Canada to bring in a thousand notoriously violent cops from Kenya to "tame" the gangs in Haiti (CNN, 3/22). But it was already too late for Henry. On March 5, when his plane was to land in the Dominican Republic, the gangs had shut down the airports. Henry's plane was diverted to Puerto Rico, where his U.S. imperialist masters forced him to resign. They established a new transitional council and packed it with some of their favorite thieves and gangsters.

The use of gangs to terrorize and torture the working class in Haiti can be traced back to the 19-year U.S. occupation of Haiti in the early 20th century, and to the subsequent thirty-year reign of the murderous "Papa Doc" and "Baby Doc" Duvalier. With open U.S. support, the Duvaliers terrorized the workers in Haiti with their paramilitary, the infamous Tonton Macoutes. In 1994, years after Baby Doc was overthrown, the U.S. once again invaded the country to restore capitalist order by reinstalling their puppet, the fake leftist Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In 2004, they returned as part of a "peacekeeping" force to put down a militia revolt. All the while, the U.S. imperialists collaborated with gangs with close ties to the old Duvalier regime and the Tonton Macoutes.

As workers continue to be terrorized with rape, kidnappings, and murders, there is no "fix" for Haiti under capitalism. The U.S. imperialists have only racist contempt for workers and youth who live one step away from death, with limited or no access to electricity, safe drinking water, sanitation, health care, or housing. The U.S. bosses have already justified their next invasion under the guise of restoring democracy and ridding the country of gangs. But their real concern is that the crisis could result in a flood of hundreds of thousands of Haitian workers into the U.S. in an election year. They also fear that it could destabilize the Caribbean and give China and Russia, their imperialist rivals, an opportunity to make inroads in the region at their expense. Meanwhile, the racist bosses in the Dominican Republic are working with vigilantes to violently expel Haitians seeking refuge. Taking a page from the ethnic cleansers in Israel and the U.S., President Luis Abinader is building to keep Haitian workers out.

The working class is not taking these capitalist atrocities lying down. In neighborhoods under the small gangsters' brutal control, workers have united in groups like Bwa Kale. They are turning the guns around, attacking and killing known gang members. But these rebellions pose a threat to the biggest gangsters of all, the U.S. imperialists. Well aware of the long history of anti-imperialist class hatred in Haiti, which could turn a direct intervention into a bloody debacle, the U.S. bosses went to the United Nations for troops to quell violence against the gangs. Genocide Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are basically outsourcing their next invasion of Haiti to Kenya and other African countries. As in Gaza, the imperialist rulers are determined to prevent embattled workers in Haiti from joining in mass rebellion. But the bosses have one big problem: Workers always fight back!

### Workers in Haiti need solidarity & communism!

As ruling-class organizations call for "charity" for Haiti, Progressive Labor Party calls for working-class solidarity and internationalism among our members and friends–and for communist revolution. Nationalist liberation struggles only replace one set of bosses with another; they can never solve the problems of the international working class.

In 1804, when workers in Haiti won their violent rebellion against their French enslavers, they became a beacon of inspiration for enslaved workers everywhere. Enslavers around the world shook in their boots. But where chattel slavery has been abolished, capitalist wage slavery has taken its place. Now workers need to take the next step, to a society run by and for workers–to communism.

Under communism, profits, and money will be eliminated, along with the capitalist parasites who steal the fruits of our labor. Freed from the bosses' terror and exploitation, workers in Haiti will help create a new society to serve our class's needs. Fight for communism! Join Progressive Labor Party!

## The 555th West Wednesday

# Long live the fight for Tyrone West

**BALTIMORE, MD, March 13**- The West Wednesday Coalition (WC) marched and held a rally at Baltimore City Hall and the Baltimore City Police (BPD) headquarters against racist police terror. The night was in honor of Tyrone West and all victims of state-sanctioned police brutality. This makes 555 Wednesdays which the coalition has tirelessly dedicated to calling out the fake liberal bosses and their politricks—as they were described by WC. Nine members of Progressive Labor Party and 3 friends of the Party attended. We led sharp political chants and distributed our newspaper CHALLENGE to enthusiastic attendees.

It's now been over 10 years since 17 killer KKKops murdered Tyrone West and then covered it up. "... [T]wo plain-clothes officers in an unmarked car pulled Tyrone over in a residential neighborhood for an alleged minor traffic infraction. Witness statements indicated that he was pulled out of his car and attacked by the police. Several residents and witnesses in the neighborhood where this happened tried to intervene and were told by one of the officers (Bernardez-Ruiz) to 'back the f— up' and go into their houses or the same thing would happen to them (westcoalition.com)." Baltimore City government has passed lackluster reforms over the last 10 years, but the killer pigs in blue have still not been put behind bars.

Tyrone West deserves to be here, among his family and friends, creating more of his beautiful art and inspiring others to care for one another. But the BPD took that away—a man who was the light of his sister's life. Tyrone, like many working-class people, is a testament to the underappreciated and long-ignored beauty in a city that is victim to a criminally vile system founded on the historic oppression of working-class people of color.

But the movement is still strong! It's become increasingly militant!

While a few workers who spoke promoted working within the system to enact substantial change for workers, the majority blamed capitalism for police terror, and many even called for a revolution. Speeches pointed to our need for multiracial unity against the cops and their crooked institutions. They may terrorize Black and Brown workers at drastically high rates, but they terrorize our white class siblings, too. One strength of our rally was pointing out the connection between police terror and imperialist war. During the speakout, a worker called out Baltimore City's fascist funding of the genocide in Palestine, pointing out that the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) butchers have been working in tandem with Baltimore City counterparts to learn new tactics for terrorizing workers into submission in this period of developing fascism.

With the Party's help, the coalition has become more anti-capitalist, but we are continuing to sharpen the struggle against police terror. A comrade argued that workers all over the world need to join together, that the struggle against genocides in Palestine, Congo, Myanmar, and abroad is our struggle too, and that we need a society ruled by and for the workers—communism!

*Workers gather for 555 Wednesdays in a row, demanding justice from a broken system!*

# DC Transit strikers, hit the brakes on bosses with PLP

**FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA, March 6**—Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU 689) workers celebrated improvements in wages and benefits after a solid 15-day strike against Transdev, the contractor providing bus service to county residents. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members joined the 650+ workers at rallies and on picket lines. We brought the message that communism is the long-term solution to our needs for a decent standard of living globally for all workers, an end to the bosses' wars, and a solution to the climate crisis. The bosses won't help with any of those things!

The new contract is still deficient in pensions and other benefits, but it approached parity with the much larger WMATA transit contract that covers the rail system and most of the bus system. Transdev was forced to make such concessions since almost no worker scabbed on the strike (CHALLENGE, 3/13).

The successful strike struck a blow against racism. Virtually all of the bus drivers are Black, mostly immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean. Transdev has relied on the old colonial approach of super-exploiting such workers, but had no choice but to back off in light of their militancy and solidarity. But until we succeed in building a revolutionary movement to topple the profit-hungry capitalist system, we will be faced with constant efforts by capitalists to use racism to push back and reduce the standard of living of all workers so they can line their pockets at our expense.

### Intensified struggle looming

A series of relatively small transit strikes over the past months in Washington, DC and its Maryland and Virginia suburbs has set the tone for the "main event" – the coming expiration of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA's) contract with over 9,000 transit workers on June 30. These Metro workers have increasingly come to realize that only antiracist class struggle has any chance of defending and advancing our interests. Workers are increasingly "strike ready!"

But WMATA is facing an operating deficit of $450 million – they will try to take this out of the hide of the working class, both those employed by Metro and those dependent on its service. Recent public hearings have shown Metro's intent to cut workers back everywhere to solve its deficit crisis. Now is the time for workers to join the PLP to develop a collective strategy for fighting this looming battle while gaining ever greater understanding of the impossibility of capitalism to meet our needs. Trust no politician, turn to the multiracial working class for solidarity and a revolutionary communist future!

## Newton, MA Strike!

# Student-Worker-Parent solidarity wins, opportunity to expose capitalist education

**NEWTON, MASS, February 2, 2024**—"When we fight, we win!" was the bold chant from the 2000-member Newton Teachers Association as they won their heroic 11-day "illegal" strike. Ninety-eight percent of the teachers picketed every day. Demands were for more social workers and behavioral therapists (needed for many students!), pay increases and work-rule changes. An excellent strike demand was for bigger pay raises for the lowest-paid staff, more of whom are Black and immigrants. It helped create unity among the various staff units. Under a communist system, we would abolish all inequality: we'd abolish money, and the working class would decide on the distribution of goods based on need.

It was the longest teachers' strike this century in Massachusetts. As in any struggle for reforms, the battle for better schools that would educate all youth will continue after the strike. Politically, we also need to be sharper as communists in exposing the role of capitalist schools in maintaining class inequality and promoting fascism and U.S. imperialism. Self-critically, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) played only a minor role in the strike, picketing and distributing over 150 leaflets to teachers and parent supporters. But we did make some new friends and introduced them to PLP's ideas and literature.

The mayor and school committee controlling Newton schools claimed: "There's no money". Yet, the affluent City of Newton had $55 million in surplus funds (for a "rainy day") -- a parent said "It's raining!" Newton schools have been under-funded for years with many Newton teachers not earning enough to buy a home in Newton or, in many cases, to rent here. Two Newton educators sell blood plasma or turn off heat to make ends meet. Even the raises won by the strikers won't cover the increased cost of healthcare.

All of the Newton city politicians serve the capitalist class, not students, workers, or educators. The strike stopped the city from busting the teachers union. It also showed how professionals' living standards in the U.S. are being driven down—as Karl Marx predicted, the professionals are being proletarianized.

### The courts work for the capitalist class

Communists always point out the role of the State (the capitalist government) in strikes. Massachusetts is one of 37 states with laws against teachers' strikes. The courts first ordered an injunction against the strike and then fined the teachers' union almost one million dollars during this strike, an extraordinary amount. Injunctions like this are part of developing fascism today as the crises of capitalism generate increasingly sharper attacks against workers in general. The Newton mayor published lies every day in her emails to the residents. The corporate media published their own fascist, blame-the-teacher lies. For example, a Boston Globe (2/5/2024) article gave space to a single anti-union businessman who attacked the teachers. Many parents and students actively supported the strike as did many other unions and individuals.

### PLP attacked war, fascism, and the underfunding of education

Our leaflet pointed out how the U.S. Federal budget has roughly $1,000 billion for war and only $81 billion for education. The extra money Biden wants to give to Ukraine and Israel right now is equal to the total yearly federal education budget. Why, in the affluent suburb of Newton, does the city choose to under-fund the schools? Why, in this richest of all countries, isn't there enough money for schools, healthcare, food, or decent housing for all? The problem is the crisis of the worldwide capitalist system, with wars from Ukraine to Gaza killing hundreds of thousands. Competition among capitalists continues to intensify. Historically, capitalism in crisis did lead to fascism and war. Today we see U.S. capitalists and their politicians, including liberals such as the Democrats, acting increasingly fascist ways.

We called for a Worker-Teacher-Parent-Student Alliance against sexism, racism, wage cuts, and imperialist war– against capitalism. We need a massive fightback, not just to win strikes, but to end the entire profit system. We need an egalitarian society. We need to support all working people internationally. We need a new political and economic system. Not the fake "communism" of today's China under Xi Jinping, but real communism: an end to the profit system and its inequities and exploitation.

## Bella Ciao, Kevin

# A staunch fighter & builder for communism

Kevin Bayuk, a leading organizer and a generous, selfless mentor to younger members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP), died on March 3 in Calvary Hospice in Brooklyn after a long battle with malignant lymphoma. In the days before his death, Kevin was still visiting with friends and comrades and listening to Paul Robeson. He was a courageous and militant fighter who believed that the Party had to be a fighting organization to seize the moment. He would say that the three most important things in his life were family, friends, and communism.

Kevin was the youngest of four children born to working-class parents in the Bronx. He was an excellent swimmer his entire life and competed in citywide high school tournaments. Kevin was attending Colgate University when his sister Mary, a nurse at Mt. Sinai Hospital, became a Party member. Mary and her husband recruited Kevin to the Party.

Kevin went on to Simmons College in Boston, where he graduated with a degree in social work. He then worked at a mental hospital, and was an active union organizer there and at his subsequent jobs. Wherever he worked, Kevin built a strong political base and brought colleagues and clients around the Party.

Kevin made friends easily. His loyalty to the Party was matched only by his loyalty to his friends. He was nonjudgmental in his friendships, many of which lasted for decades. This same long-term outlook enriched Kevin's base-building.

### Bold antiracism in Boston

In the early 1970s, PLP in Boston was composed mainly of white middle-class college students who were attracted by the Party's bold and militant anti-imperialism against the war in Vietnam. In the same period, a violent, racist, anti-busing organization, Restore Our Alienated Rights (ROAR) arose in Boston. The Boston PLP leadership was frightened and intimidated by these racist South Boston thugs and refused to engage in militant struggle against them. When pushed to do so by the central PLP leadership, they split from the Party, taking almost all of the student members with them. But Kevin and a few other mostly working-class and Black comrades remained loyal to the Party.

In September 1974, the Boston school year began under a U.S. federal court ruling to integrate the city's public schools. The ensuing opposition by racist white parents was every bit as violent as any seen in the U.S. South. Kevin and a few other Party members bravely stood up to the thousands of racists outside South Boston High School. They called for Black and white working-class unity in the fight for better schools and working conditions.

For the following May Day, in 1975, PLP's national leadership organized a march in South Boston, the heart of the racists' home turf. With thousands of Party members and supporters in the International Committee Against Racism converging on Boston, the Party organized a contingent of fighters to protect the march. When the racists prepared to launch their attack against the marchers, Kevin and his fellow fight-

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## Pakistan International Working Women's Day

# Unite to smash this sexist system

On the eve of International Women's Day (IWD) our comrades and friends played a revolutionary role to bring poor working-class women to the celebrations all over the country. Rich feminist, liberal and progressive women activists organized processions in big cities while playing our active role there. We concentrated to bring more and more women to celebrate the IWD in the areas which were devastated in floods.

As communists in Progressive Labor Party (PLP), we are striving to eliminate every form of exploitation like inequality, gender-based violence, religious hatred and injustice. Organizing women workers hit hardest by the system, and bringing them to the celebrations was a positive step forward in that direction.

From Afghanistan to Pakistan working class women need communism classless society where their safety, dignity and prosperity are guaranteed not bankrupt liberal feminism. They need a society based on equality, justice and freedom. They desperately need shelter, free education and free healthcare facilities. We cannot expect change in our society without organizing working-class women in the movement for an international communist revolution under the banner of PLP.

### PL'ers celebrate leadership of women workers under attack

In rallies, organized in different cities to celebrate IWD, our comrades explained that in a country where poverty is about sixty percent, inflation is about 32 percent, unemployment is almost 10 percent, fascism is on rise and fundamentalist are getting more space how can we imagine that poor working-class women or even men can attend conferences and celebrations held in five-star hotels.

In Pakistan and all over the world feminism is a bout capitalism and women bosses. That's why feminists take up the issues which are related to ruling class women they talk about women rights but never utter a single sentence against the capitalist system which is exploiting poor women vigorously.

When our comrades asked them to celebrate the IWD by singing and dancing they started to cry and scream while saying that "we are still living without proper shelters, medicines, food and clothing. How can we sing a song or dance with joy?" Our comrades gave them courage by giving some examples of optimism from the history of the poor working class and explained that it is the capitalist system which sucks our blood to survive. Bosses will never bring ease in our lives because they need more and more exploitation of the poor to become richer. We come to know that bosses have looted what was sent by different international charity organizations for the displaced population which shows that bosses will keep us deprived of every right until we fight back and get our rights.

We also helped brighten the mood with revolutionary poetry, songs and cultural dances in appreciation of the women in the class struggle for a communist revolution and revolutionary change.

Pakistan is a country with 49.2 percent of women of the total population of 241 million but most of them have no right to give their opinion in family matters or even go to market without permission of their elders. They live like slaves and are treated brutally. They do hard work at home, in the fields or at the workplace from dawn to dusk without recognition of their labor. They always have been facing cruelty of their husbands, fathers or brothers at home and harassment at schools, markets or wherever they work. Poor working class women are humiliated and tortured by the landlords and supervisors at work.

### Sexism, racism, and oppression—all fruits from the rotten capitalist tree

Domestic workers like women and young housemaids are more vulnerable, almost every day we hear the terrible stories of domestic workers about how they have been sexually, physically, psychologically and verbally abused. Housemaids are easy target of brutal attitude of the people they are working for.

According to a recent report girls aged ten to fourteen; one in every four homes is being abused sexually or physically. Same happened with the girls from Christian and Hindu community more easily. Most of the victims are kept silent by threatening them that if they try to expose savagery, they are facing their parents being killed.

During the celebrations PL'ers and our working class sisters had many lively political discussions. A PL'er explained that we are living in a country where the gender gap is increasing day by day. According to the Davos index, we are standing at 142 out of 146. It is our duty to spread class consciousness among the working-class women to fight against exploitation, poverty and illiteracy. We condemned the gender-based wage disparities at the workplaces and emphasized that women are suffering because of the rotten capitalist economic policies of the bosses so we need to build a strong movement against all these capitalist policies and we are striving for. Women workers and PL'ers discussed importanttant demands we are fighting for such as:

- Rejecting the proposed amendments in the constitutions attacking transgendered workers.
- Demanding provision of shelter, food and healthcare facilities to the displaced workers still living in horrible conditions
- The recognition of unpaid women's labor in the home.

### Only communism can liberate women workers

However a PL'er reiterated that reform cannot bring change in the society except to give some relief to the working class people and we know that bosses can go for the reform which can help them to sustain their bloody capitalist system but they will not allow making a communist revolution because communist revolution will end their exploitative system. They ended by saying that if we want to get rid of exploitation, gender based inequality, fascism and fundamentalism we must build a revolutionary international communist party.

PLP is the only hope for the working class people to establish a society based on "from each according to his/her abilities to each according to need". We are building an international revolutionary communist PLP to get rid of all the miseries working class people are facing all over the world. PLP salutes the fightback and leadership of women workers for a bright revolutionary future of communism in this dark night era all over the world.

# From Gaza to Cali, racist displacement is the name of the game

*Continued from page 1*

last at least a week and that she intended to call seven witnesses to testify about the unlivable conditions in that tenant's apartment. She also told Murillo's attorney that she was ready to demand that the court greatly reduce the rent owed because of the slum conditions.

When Murillo's attorney saw the supporters in the courtroom, he knew the tenant's attorney was not bluffing. Shook by this display of class solidarity, Murillo decided to postpone the case for a month. We later found out that one of the eviction cases they brought was dismissed.

This past Saturday, LITU held a general meeting in the courtyard of the tenants' apartment complex. Nineteen tenants attended, including seven from the complex. The two tenants facing eviction reported to the group. They described in detail what happened, and emphasized the key role that the support of tenants from that building and others had played.

### Tenants endorse international solidarity

At the suggestion of a PLP member, the LITU leadership group agreed that a resolution in solidarity with, and condemning the genocide of, Palestinians in Gaza should be presented to the general meeting. The resolution denounced the Israeli apartheid policy in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as the October 7th murderous Hamas assault on Israeli civilians. The resolution connected the history of mass evictions in the West Bank by the brutal Zionist regime in Israel to gentrification and evictions in the Los Angeles area by landlords looking to get around rent control. The resolution called for a ban on U.S. military assistance to Israel, an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of all Israeli settlers from the West Bank, and the prosecution of the fascist, Zionist government of Israel for war crimes.

During the discussion of the resolution, a PLP member pointed out that the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have a long history of "anti-terrorism" training of police and sheriffs from large U.S. cities and counties. These are the same racist sheriffs and cops who carry out court-ordered evictions and protect the landlords' properties in LA County. Another LITU member drew the connection between solidarity on a local level and the international solidarity of working-class tenants across all bosses' borders. The tenants who attended the meeting voted unanimously to support the resolution.

### On to May Day

Several tenants asked what they could do to show support for the anti-war resolution. LITU leaders proposed we go as a group to a local demonstration protesting the genocide in Gaza. PLP's next steps will be to bring a contingent of tenants to an anti-war action in our area and invite them to our May Day activities.

# LETTERS

**We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.**

## In the struggle for Gaza, it's clear—liberal fascism is the danger.

Since October 7, when Hamas killed 1,000 Israelis and the Zionists began bombing Gaza murdering more than 32,000 Palestinians so far, comrades in the community and organization we participate in have been active against genocide and starvation in Gaza. In mid-October Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members distributed hundreds of leaflets titled Hamas/ Israel War Means: International Working Class Fight Back; Join Progressive Labor Party. Comrades spoke at meetings and led a well-attended forum at the organization. We continued distributing leaflets and CHALLENGE in the community. We attended mass protests in the city helping distribute thousands of CHALLENGEs.

Recently PLP members have begun to work with a group of the organization's staff, mostly young members of a UAW local, who are angry at the lack of response by the directors to the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. The group wrote a letter to the directors with five demands, notably a call for a permanent ceasefire, support for the boycott, divestment, a sanctions movement against Israel, and support for the uncommitted movement of voters. PLPers helped the group get 20 signatures from worker members while staff got 40 signatures from other staff.

The letter included staff and worker statements like, "We mustn't let Biden off the hook by fear of a Trump presidency." "Stop the genocide now. No concessions!" Staff said that while Netanyahu and the Israeli government prepare to bomb Rafah, Biden, and U.S. imperialists give Israel billions of dollars for armaments! Citibank is in Israel and the war and gives money to the community organization. The directors revealed their loyalty to imperialism and the Democratic Party saying, "We can take money from Citibank even if we don't agree with their investments." To a member's call for no concessions, the directors said, "We understand the outrage about Gaza, but it's a problem. We need to win the election for Biden and the Democratic Party."

Their problem is that many young people and workers see the connections between the liberal fascist so-called lesser evil and the capitalist system. The opportunities for a revolutionary communist party, PLP, are growing! One new comrade has stepped up to take more leadership and we have a new member of our club. We will continue to be involved in the community organization with our new friends and seize every opportunity to put forward our Party's ideas. Now it's time for PLP members to build a base and invite new friends to our study group and PLP's May Day on May 4. We got this!

## How I ended up joining PLP

From February 17-19 2024, Progressive Labor Party's West Coast collective gathered for a meeting in Southern California. I got to be a part of this gathering, and the experience led me to join Progressive Labor Party. We discussed current events- the ongoing imperialist war in Gaza perpetrated by fascists around the globe, current political leaders, and each of the struggles our class has been facing in our day-to-day lives. Everyone's diverse background and individual struggle somehow led us all here, as we pursue the same ultimate goal of working-class revolution communism. Our stories were validating and uplifting, knowing so many of us fight the same cause across all of California and in different divisions of work and education. A comrade/student at California State University has been fighting relentlessly against the administration's efforts to silence her, as she and other students fight against a tuition increase while the CSU administration hoards billions of dollars. Their retaliation against her protesting voice goes to show that her efforts are not in vain- the bosses have been rattled.

I never cared to learn/teach myself history before joining PLP's study groups, which opened my horizons to learning global history through a non-capitalist and anti-imperialist perspective. For the first time in my life, I could see patterns throughout human civilization and gained a better understanding of why the condition of the globe is as fucked up as it is today, in all senses of the word! Environmentally, economically, socially, etc... With that understanding, I gained hope on how we can move forward toward a better society. I love to learn history now and do my best to talk about it and teach it to others who are without a background in history. After these engaging discussions, and meeting other members of PLP across California, I joined.

## Our bonds motivates us to learn and fight

The most important and lasting part of the cadre school to me was the bonds and camaraderie that we built, for it will surely help us further develop and strengthen our future struggles. Seeing the entirety of the Los Angeles group together with those from Northern California was inspiring due to us being able to organize such an event, share stories, and build lasting friendships. To me, strong relationships and understanding that you can rely on a comrade is the most important part of maintaining the struggle. Although everyone has their reasons and motivations for joining the Party and starting in the struggle, it is the day-to-day check-ins with comrades that keep us accountable to not forget our commitment to the fight. And it was during the cadre school retreat, we exchanged contacts along with planning and organizing to keep in touch regularly.

Furthermore, it was making these bonds that made learning about our comrade's struggles more important and inspiring for us. From the Bay down to LA, there were current, but also older stories that inspired us. Being able to learn from members who experienced many more years of struggle than us proved most encouraging since their lessons provided us with hope but also paths for self-criticism. One cool conversation that got me thinking was about religion and how communists grapple with the institution of religion and their own beliefs. Moreover, how religious institutions provide a model of why community, solidarity, and organizing are so vital to human nature. Lastly, our youth in the movement committed to struggles on college campuses across California proved most inspiring since it will be their initial experiences in their respective struggles, and the lessons they will learn will prove fruitful.

## Black-Red series evokes memory of women's prison protest

The current CHALLENGE series, revisited from 2017, on the Civil Rights Movement is very much appreciated by workers, such as those in our discussion group. Not all comrades had the experiences these articles discuss. Younger readers thirst for the stories to apply the messages they carry to current struggles.

One anecdote recalled from the 1960s is pertinent now because of Women's History Month. I came out of a subway to find a demonstration organized by the Civil Rights Movement at the Women's Prison in Greenwich Village. There were all sorts of protests and marches all over the city at the time, much like today. I was moved to join this one, whose aim was to "shut it down". That was eventually accomplished due to the abuse at the jail, everything from rats to sexual predation by the staff. Our wonderful Black southern spirituals adapted with protest lyrics, such as the song Turn Me Round, could be heard from afar.

The idea that a women's prison protest, with meaning for the women's movement, could be part of the struggle against racism, was a direct result of the strength of a momentous Civil Rights Movement, which could include other reform struggles rather than focusing on racism alone.

Unfortunately, despite the Civil Rights Movement's strength and breadth, it was unable to defeat all the sell-outs, anti-communist reformists, and other swine such as Joseph McCarthy. It was the Progressive Labor Party that turned the tables on his House Un-American Activities Committee when it tried to prosecute us after a Cuba trip to break the travel ban.

# Bella Ciao, Kevin

*Continued from page 4*

ers charged up a hill and caught them by surprise. The ROAR thugs were forced to retreat. While some PLP fighters were injured, the march was protected and proceeded without further incident.

That summer, the Party held a summer project in Boston. Although the Boston Party was still small, Kevin and the other remaining members provided an important nucleus of organizers for more than two hundred volunteers who came from around the country to participate. After a group of Black bible salesmen were savagely assaulted by racists at segregated Carson Beach, PLP and the Committee Against Racism were the first to call for a demonstration. During the violence that ensued at the march, Kevin played a leading role in protecting several comrades.

### A compassionate caregiver

Kevin eventually moved to New York and became one of the first physician assistants, a pioneer in the healthcare wilderness. He was a compassionate caregiver who worked at the Morris Heights Community Health Center for thirty years and touched thousands of lives. He took his medical van to homeless shelters and to the boardwalk at Coney Island, where he would crawl underneath to coax homeless people to get medical attention.

In Kevin's later years in the Party, he concentrated on building a base and mentoring younger comrades, working closely with a college club in the Bronx.

Kevin continued to swim regularly throughout his life and competed in senior swim races. He also included his family in his other favorite activity—fishing. A devoted parent, he took his children, nephews, and eventually his grandchildren on regular fishing trips and developed deep ties with younger family members.

### Kevin's internationalism

In 2011, Kevin went with his partner to Haiti, where the Party conducted a freedom school and a health clinic. He later returned to Haiti for the Party's work with union members, and to meet with striking workers at a local hospital. As always, he infused his base-building with calls for action.

Kevin also went to Puerto Rico with the Party, where he was instrumental in organizing the PLP contingent after Hurricane Maria's devastation. There he continued his committed base-building and demonstrated by his words and deeds that the Party was an organization of action and participation in the mass struggles of the international working class.

He established ties with organization led by a veteran communist fighter and close friend. With rare consistency and dedication, Kevin demonstrated what it means to build a mass communist party.

### A fighter all his life

After Kevin was found to have two cancers, he continued meeting with his club and mentoring and nurturing the younger members. He always emphasized the importance of developing lasting friendships and base-building. He urged the younger members to have confidence in the working class. He taught them the importance of distributingCHALLENGE. He never wavered or compromised in advocating the fight for communism.

As one of his closest friends said, "Kevin exemplifies what a revolutionary and communist is and should be. If we want to pay tribute to Kevin, the best way to do so is by recognizing his courageous commitment to communism. We should emulate his fight for communism and continue fighting against all types of racism and exploitation. He was a noble, just, humble, and brave human being as well as a dedicated comrade." Kevin, the friend said, was best described by this verse by Bertolt Brecht:

*There are men who fight one day and are good.*

*Others fight for a year and are better.*

*Some fight for many years and are very good.*

*But some fight all their lives; those are the essential ones.*

# The Harlem Rebellion's red connection

*Continued from page 8*

class in China, had been victimized by the brutality of British, Japanese and U.S. imperialism. The history of imperialism was inseparable from the racist theories of the British ruling class. The victory of the working class in China inspired workers all over the world to rise up against imperialism and sharpened the struggle against racism. In Vietnam, the working class was in the process of defeating the largest imperialist power the world had ever seen, the war machine of the U.S. bosses. In the U.S., even as legal segregation and racism was being brought down in the South, Black workers in the North were taking on the embedded racism of liberal capitalism.

The overwhelming majority of Black New Yorkers saw their quality of life decline, whether it's school segregation, housing segregation, unemployment, earnings… [in the] period between the end of World War II and the 1964 riot… "This was Northern racism, which was quite different from Southern racism, in that Northern racism was covert," says Joseph Boskin, history professor emeritus at Boston University.

### Racism is the lifeblood of capitalism

Boskin, who conducted interviews in Harlem after the [rebellion], says the unmet expectations of Black Americans in the North were starting to push some of them toward more militant routes for change, despite a national narrative of what seemed to be progress in the country's laws" (New York's 'Night Of Birmingham Horror' Sparked A Summer Of Riots, WNYC 7/18/14).

The Progressive Labor Movement (PLM), the young forerunner to Progressive Labor Party (PLP), grew out of the rebellion and played a leading role at the same time. PLM produced a poster, 'Wanted for Murder - Gilligan the Cop" that became the banner of the struggle carried by thousands of people in the streets. The PLM organized marches and rallies even after the New York City bosses tried to ban all political activity.

The ruling class in New York, who thought of themselves as the "decent" bosses compared to the Jim Crow Southern capitalists, were caught off-guard by the anger of Black workers in Harlem who suffered under extreme inequality.

The Harlem median family income was $3,995 compared to …$6,100 [for all NYC], unemployment in Harlem was 300% higher than in the rest of the city, substandard housing was 49% [of all housing] while in the rest of NYC it was 15%, infant mortality was 45.3 per 1000 births but only 26.3 in the rest of the city… Life magazine lamented that "the only force that had the guts to give political direction to the spontaneous rebellion was PL" (Progressive Labor, Vol. 10, No. 1, August-September 1975).

The Harlem Rebellion exposed racism as part of capitalism, even in U.S.'s most liberal center, NYC. After Harlem, within weeks, rebellions broke out in Rochester, Jersey City, Chicago and Philadelphia and over the next few years there were major rebellions in Watts (1965), Newark (1967) and Detroit (1967). Then in 1968, after Martin Luther King was assassinated, rebellions broke out in cities across the country and workers and students around the world, most notably in France and Chicago, shook capitalism.

### Liberal rulers unleash racist attacks, bury antiracist history

The ruling class has tried to write off the rebellions by calling them riots and dismissing the contribution and courage of the tens of thousands of Black workers who were part of the movement. But even now, 60 years later, the truth of the Harlem Rebellion has not been erased.

> *Part of the confusion is that in the North, many of the laws were not openly discriminatory,…It made it harder to seize the moral high ground and argue that nonviolent civil disobedience was justified.*
>
> *So, growing frustrations found an outlet on the streets, according to Billy Mitchell, historian of Harlem's Apollo Theater.*
>
> *"It wasn't just people just wild n' out, you know, and just going crazy. They understood what they were doing,"…*
>
> *Looking back, Mitchell says he doesn't completely condone the violent response. But he says it was necessary.*
>
> *"Sometimes you have got to really do something extraordinary or uncommon to get the attention of people," he adds.*

(In the Heat of the Summer: The Harlem Riot of 1964 and the Road to America's Prison Crisis).

The U.S. ruling class responded to the mass demonstrations and anti-imperialist movements with both terror and political crumbs. Police and soldiers fired on and killed civil rights demonstrators and students fighting racism and war in Orangeburg, SC, Jackson State, MS and Kent State, OH (see CHALLENGE, 6/28).

Combined with the brutal attacks, the ruling class enacted a series of reforms in cities with concentrations of Black workers. Lyndon Johnson launched the War on Poverty funneling millions of dollars to create community programs. The Democratic Party and northern capitalists spent millions getting Black mayors elected across the country.

The FBI revved up its Cointelpro Program. It was a covert operation to target PLP and other groups to try to destroy the anti-imperialist movement. Leaders of PLP were arrested and some were convicted and jailed, others harassed and fired. Through those struggles and in the years since we've tried to keep up the fight against racism and build an integrated organization.

### Black workers key to communist revolution

Black workers who have borne the brunt of racism and led the fight against it must be in the leadership of any working-class struggle and movement for communism. There will be no forward progress for the working class without the leadership of Black workers and a massive struggle against racism.

## RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

### NATO troops in Ukraine? One step closer to World War!

Newsweek, 3/20–French troops are ready for "the toughest engagements," the commander of the country's ground forces has said, as President Emmanuel Macron mulls an official military deployment to Ukraine despite repeated Russian threats of retaliation… Macron is at the forefront of a nascent proposal by a handful of NATO nations to discuss sending allied forces into Ukraine in training and advisory roles, though not as combat troops…France could engage a division of 20,000 troops within 30 days to operate as part of an allied coalition. Paris…would be able to command a force of around 60,000 soldiers made up of French and other allied troops. …Macron first suggested that NATO soldiers could deploy to Ukraine in February during a meeting of European leaders in Paris. The president said there was "no consensus" on the proposal, though added that "nothing was excluded."

### Tik Tok ban is an example of inter-imperialist rivalry

Jewish Review of Books, 3/13–The House of Representatives just passed a bill…to ban TikTok in the United States unless its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, divests itself of the social media app… If the legislation musters sixty votes in the Democratic-led senate, then the social media app used by nearly half of Americans may disappear from their phones by the end of the year. Protecting Americans from TikTok's political influence would be a gain to Israel's standing with its most important ally…Researchers at Rutgers and the Network Contagion Research Institute compared TikTok and Instagram (which has a similar demographic) and found that although Instagram has only twice the number of politically themed posts generally, it had six times more pro-Israel and anti-Hamas posts than TikTok.

But the fact that TikTok is under the influence of America's main adversary, the Chinese Communist Party, suggests the problem is more than just a wartime burst of digital anti-Zionism…a third of eighteen- to twenty-nine-year-old users regularly get news from the platform.

### Even the U.N. chief is frustrated by the starvation of Palestinians

Al Jazeera, 3/23–The line of blocked aid trucks stuck on Egypt's side of the border with the Gaza Strip while Palestinians face starvation on the other side is a "moral outrage", United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on a visit to the Rafah crossing. "I have come to Rafah to shine a spotlight on the pain of Palestinians in Gaza," the UN chief said on Saturday, addressing a news conference in El Arish, in Egypt's northern Sinai, where much of the international relief for Gaza is stockpiled as Israel continues to block aid from entering…A long line of blocked relief trucks on one side of the gates, the long shadow of starvation on the other," he said. "That is more than tragic. It is a moral outrage. Any further onslaught will make things even worse – worse for Palestinian civilians, worse for hostages, and worse for all people in the region.""You cannot see so many people being killed, you cannot see so much suffering without feeling hugely frustrated," Guterres said while taking questions from reporters.

### Trump or Biden, inter-imperialist world war awaits

Foreign Affairs, 3/22–Among Republicans, there are fewer and fewer Atlanticists left. Within the party, the idea that the United States should not be responsible for Europe's security has become mainstream. The threats that emerge from Trump's behavior will haunt Europe even if Trump does not win in November… Among the most consequential acts of Trump's presidency was the lethal military assistance he provided to Ukraine…Aiding Ukraine with lethal weapons was something President Barack Obama had refused to do…In 2017, Trump greenlighted lethal military aid including Javelin antitank missiles to Ukraine, an act he believed would be good for the U.S. defense industry…In the first few weeks after Russia's 2022 invasion, those Javelin antitank systems would play a crucial role in Ukraine's ability to defend itself against Russia's advance.

## BLACK & RED, UNTOLD HISTORY, PART IV:

# THE RED BLOODED HARLEM REBELLION

*Ruling-class historians have segregated the fight against racism and the fight for an egalitarian system, communism. In reality, the two are connected like flesh and bone. Many antiracist struggles were led by, initiated by, or were fought with communists and communist-influenced organizations in the leadership. Many Black fighters were dedicated communists and pro-communists of their time.*

*In turn, the bosses have used anti-communism as a tool to terrorize and divide antiracist fightback. Regardless of communist affiliation, anyone who fought racism was at risk of being redbaited. Why? 1) The ruling class understands the natural relationship between antiracism and communism, and 2) Multiracial unity threatens the very racist system the bosses "work so hard" to maintain.*

*This series aims to reunite the history of communism with antiracism. Part I explored how the fight to free the Scottsboro Boys was ignited by the International Labor Defense of the Communist Party. See Robin D.G. Kelley's book "Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists during the Great Depression" to find out more."*

*Part II explored how the international communist movement was the impetus of the Civil Rights Movement. It excerpts from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in the essay, "The Civil Rights Movement" by researcher Davarian L. Baldwin at Trinity College. Part III covered the class contradictions of Martin Luther King, Jr., as influenced by the Communist Party.*

*Part IV takes a look at the Harlem Rebellion and its communist influence.*

The Harlem Rebellion of 1964 shook the United States bosses and resonated around the world as the struggle against racism expanded from the fight against Jim Crow in the South to the cities of the North. Once again the communist movement helped lead and was deeply influenced by the fight against racism in the U.S.

The rebellion, sparked by the police killing a young Black man in cold blood, occurred at a moment when the working class around the world was rising up, led by the communist movement centered around the Chinese Communist Party. The fledgling Progressive Labor Movement born out of the rise of the working class in China, was also shaped by the Harlem Rebellion.

### KKKops murder child in cold blood

In July 1964, 15 year-old James Powell was playing with friends on the sidewalk across from his school in the white neighborhood of Yorkville, when a building superintendent sprayed them down with a hose and unleashed a series of racial epithets at the Black children. The school kids ran to the super to get him to stop, and a cop, Thomas Gilligan, watching from across the street came at the group and shot James Powell in front of numerous witnesses.

Immediately about 300 Black students from the school rallied at the site of the murder and confronted the police on the scene demanding Gilligan's arrest and inspiring the rebellion.

Two days of peaceful protests ensued. But on the third day, a crowd surrounded the police precinct, calling for Gilligan's arrest, and was met with swinging clubs of the New York Police Department. Rainfall of glass bottles and garbage can lids was thrown by residents from rooftops above. Gunfire broke out after police pushed thousands of demonstrators back a few blocks toward the corner of 125th Street and Lenox Avenue " (New York's 'Night Of Birmingham Horror' Sparked A Summer Of Riots, WNYC 7/18/14).

### Communist movement sparked Black workers' rebellions

The rebellion started only weeks after the U.S. had passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act which was Lyndon Johnson's response to the growing Civil Rights Movement in the South. That movement and the worldwide movement led by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was politicizing the working class. The working

*Continued on page 7*

## WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

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